

## Abstract 707

**TITLE:** HIV Risk Behavior in Gay and Bisexual Men in New York City

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**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:** A number of large scale studies in other cities have suggested that 40%-50% of gay men engage in HIV sexual risk behaviors over the course of a year. We examined specific HIV sexual risk behavior in a large and ethnically diverse sample of gay and bisexual men in New York City.

**METHODS:** This was a cross sectional, self-report survey of 7,650 gay and bisexual men. Recruitment was via convenience sampling at 23 gay identified venues (pride marches, gay - identified beaches, restaurants, neighborhoods, events, etc.). Descriptive statistics were computed, and ANOVAs and  $\chi^2$  calculated to examine behavioral differences by race and age.

**RESULTS:** The sample was 56% white, 19% black, 18% Latino, 3% Asian/PI, and 4% other race/ethnicity. The self reported HIV-seropositivity rate was 17% among blacks, 15% Latinos, 13% whites, 2% Asian/Pis. However, Asian/FIs were more likely a t o have tested for HIV (19%, versus 12% blacks, 9% whites, 9% Latinos). More than a quarter of whites (28%) reported >10 male sex partners in the past year, versus 23% Asian/Pis, 17% Latinos, and 11% blacks. There were no significant racial/ethnic differences in unprotected anal intercourse in the past year (39% to 45% across groups). However, whites who engaged in UAI were most likely to report only 1 insertive (74%) and 1 receptive (69%) UAI partner, versus blacks (63%, 57%), Latinos (67%, 65%) and Asian/Pis (67%, 71%). Whites who engaged in UAI were also most likely to report that all their UAI partners were HIV-seroconcordant (75% versus 69% blacks, 66% Asian/Pis, 64% Latinos). Asian/Pis who engaged in UAI with partners of opposite or unknown serostatus were most likely to report being HIV-negative (77%), versus 63% whites, 48% blacks, 48% Latinos.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Though approximately two in five men reported UAI in the past year, most men limited UAI to a single partner, and to partners they believed were of the same HIV-serostatus. Though white gay/bisexual men had the most sexual partners, they were no more likely to report UAI, and more likely to limit UAI to 1 partner and partners of perceived HIV-seroconcordant status. Blacks and Latinos who engaged in UAI with partners of opposite or unknown serostatus were more likely to report being HIV-seropositive. Clearly, gay men are engaging in negotiated safety, and preventing HIV transmission requires a refined understanding of partners and serostatus than simple reports of UAI.

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